

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

Please amend claims 1-4 and add claims 9-11 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (currently amended) An electrochemical element comprising: an element unit in which a positive electrode and a negative electrode are disposed to face each other with a separator therebetween; an electrolyte in contact with said element unit; a metal case for accommodating said element unit and said electrolyte; wherein the metal case comprises a major inner face and a minor inner face; a sealing body for sealing an opening of said metal case; and a sealant in a form of a layer sandwiched between [[a]] the major inner face of said metal case and a major outer face of said sealing body, characterized in that said sealant is in direct contact with the major inner face of said metal case and the major outer face of said sealing body, and said sealant comprises an elastomer as a main component and an organic pigment and is colored in a color different from said metal case and sealing body.

2. (currently amended) An electrochemical element comprising: an element unit in which a positive electrode and a negative electrode are disposed to face each other with a separator therebetween; an electrolyte in contact with said element unit; a metal case for accommodating said element unit and said electrolyte; a sealing body for sealing an opening of said metal case; and a sealant in a form of a layer sandwiched between a major inner face of said metal case and a major outer face of said sealing body, characterized in that said sealant is in direct contact with the major inner face of said metal case and the major outer face of said sealing body, and said sealant comprises an elastomer as a main component and an organic pigment and is colored in a color different from said metal case and sealing body.The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said organic pigment is an organic pigment composed of a phthalocyanine-based metal complex.

3. (currently amended) An electrochemical element comprising: an element unit in which a positive electrode and a negative electrode are disposed to face each other with a separator therebetween; an electrolyte in contact with said element unit; a metal case for accommodating said element unit and said electrolyte; a metal sealing plate for sealing an opening of said metal case; a gasket interposed between said metal case and said sealing plate; and a sealant in a form of a layer sandwiched between a major inner face of said metal case and a major outer face of said gasket ~~or between a major outer face of said sealing plate and a major~~

~~inner face of said gasket, characterized in that said sealant is in direct contact with the major inner or major outer face of said gasket and with the major inner face of said metal case or the major outer face of said sealing plate, and said sealant comprises an elastomer as a main component and an organic pigment and is colored in a color different from said metal case, gasket and sealing plate.~~

4. (currently amended) An electrochemical element comprising: an element unit in which a positive electrode and a negative electrode are disposed to face each other with a separator therebetween; an electrolyte in contact with said element unit; a metal case for accommodating said element unit and said electrolyte; a metal sealing plate for sealing an opening of said metal case; a gasket interposed between said metal case and said sealing plate; and a sealant in a form of a layer sandwiched between a major inner face of said metal case and a major outer face of said gasket or between a major outer face of said sealing plate and a major inner face of said gasket, characterized in that said sealant is in direct contact with the major inner or major outer face of said gasket and with the major inner face of said metal case or the major outer face of said sealing plate, and said sealant comprises an elastomer as a main component and an organic pigment and is colored in a color different from said metal case, gasket and sealing plate.~~The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said organic pigment is an organic pigment composed of a phthalocyanine-based metal complex.~~

5. (previously presented) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said organic pigment has chemical affinity for the elastomer and is evenly dispersed in the sealant.

6. (previously presented) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said organic pigment provides an even color in the sealant.

7. (previously presented) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said organic pigment has chemical affinity for the elastomer and is evenly dispersed in the sealant.

8. (previously presented) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said organic pigment provides an even color in the sealant.

9. (new) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sealing body comprises a synthetic resin or rubber.

10. (new) An electrochemical element comprising: an element unit in which a positive electrode and a negative electrode are disposed to face each other with a separator therebetween; an electrolyte in contact with said element unit; a metal case for accommodating said element unit and said electrolyte; a metal sealing plate for sealing an opening of said metal case; a gasket interposed between said metal case and said sealing plate; and a sealant in a form of a layer sandwiched between a major inner face of said metal case and a major outer face of said gasket and between a major outer face of said sealing plate and a major inner face of said gasket, characterized in that said sealant is in direct contact with the major inner and major outer faces of said gasket and with the major inner face of said metal case and the major outer face of said sealing plate, and said sealant comprises an elastomer as a main component and an organic pigment and is colored in a color different from said metal case, gasket and sealing plate.

11. (new) The electrochemical element as set forth in claim 10, wherein said organic pigment is an organic pigment composed of a phthalocyanine-based metal complex.